



# Committee on Homeland Security Democrats

## Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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### CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON HONORS FIRE FIGHTERS

**April 6, 2005, Washington, DC** —Earlier this week, Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, (D-MS) Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security introduced H. RES. 188; a resolution that recognizes and honors the nation's firefighters for their dedicated services and commitment to protecting the American public from danger, and for their many contributions to the nation throughout America's history.

Congressman Thompson stated, **"Our firefighters, whether paid or volunteer, put their lives at risk with every call they must answer. They lose time away from their families while they train and prepare and they never complain."**

There are currently over 1.1 million firefighters who sacrifice their lives in order to keep America safe, and over 100 of those firefighters die in the line of duty each year. Seventy-five percent of firefighters are volunteers who receive little or no compensation for their work. **"Volunteer firefighters often have to devote time to raising money to purchase the equipment and pay for training that will keep them safe while they protect us...as a former volunteer firefighter I understand what they have to give up in the name of service, Thompson said."**

H. RES. 188 recognizes the men and women at more than 30,000 fire departments in the United States, the firefighters who have died in responding to the 9/11 attacks, the many who have died over the years while servicing their country, and to those firefighters who provide emergency medical services and life safety education.

Congressman Chris Cox, (R-CA), Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security; Congressman Peter King, (R-NY), Chairman of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology; Congressman Bill Pascrell, (D-NJ), Ranking member of the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology; and Congressman Curt Weldon, (R-PA), member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and founder of the Congressional Fire and Emergency Services Caucus were instrumental in the submission of the resolution as well. There are a total of 55 original co-sponsors.

H. RES. 188 Attached

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